

Autumn Newsletter 2016



Hello everyone,



We hope you all enjoyed the summer break and had a lovely time. It is great to see everyone back after the holidays and we have all settled into our daily routines well. We have already begun work on our new topic which for this term is 'All the World's a Stage' using theatre and performance as a medium for learning. Through this students will take part in a range of activities linked to theatre shows and putting on a performance such as costumes, props and music. This will all culminate in a Christmas pantomime where students will have the opportunity to showcase their creative talents.

This year there will be myself teaching the class alongside Ashleigh Sinclair who was already part of the class team last year. I will be teaching Tuesday, Wednesdays and Thursdays and Ashleigh will be teaching on Monday's and Fridays. We also have two new staff joining the team Joanna and Rosie alongside the rest of the team who remain the same. We will continue to provide clear structure and routine to ensure stability for students. There are a few slight changes to the timetable with swimming now on Thursday and we now have a PE session on Wednesday but hiking remains the same on Tuesday and community sports on Friday.



Our communication sessions continue in collaboration with Ami (SaLT) working together with students on their individual programmes. Some of our students successfully achieved their Entry Level 1 city and guilds AAC accreditation last year and will now work towards the Entry level 2 certificate. Communication programmes will be used throughout the curriculum and students are encouraged to use their skills across the day.

Students will develop their numeracy skills with individualised targets and programmes of work. These skills will then be applied within practical contexts as part of community based sessions. We will continue to visit the supermarket, café and leisure centre on a weekly basis.

Students will also continue to develop life skills through vocational job roles including outdoor maintenance tasks such as litter collecting and leaf clearing, administrative tasks such as laminating, shredding and delivering post and school maintenance tasks such as laundry and replenishing items such as cups in the water coolers and paper and toner in the photocopiers. This vocational rehabilitation focused area of the curriculum in Life Skills is to prepare the students with the intention of transition

to meaningful work or volunteering settings in the future. Engaging in these sessions will enable the identification of appropriate pre-vocational skills to develop, and through grading and adapting the tasks, facilitating progress towards a richer and more fulfilling engagement in community life in adulthood.

Our ASDAN module this term is 'Putting on a Performance' which links in closely with our topic for the term and will give students the opportunity to engage in performing arts activities. Students



will also continue working towards their Duke of Edinburgh Award and develop life skills through food technology sessions. For this term we will be focusing on preparing a range of theatre based snacks such as popcorn cupcakes and gourmet hotdogs where students will work towards

increasing their independence in following recipes and instructions and using equipment. In Science we will be exploring light and sound taking part in a range of sensory based experiments.

We are all excited about this term and the programmes of work and look forward to seeing the student's achievements and progress.

If you have any further questions or there is anything you would like to discuss please don't hesitate to contact us.

Michelle, Ashleigh and the team